

Message Text

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42

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2139

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, VT

SUBJECT: TRIPOLI CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM DIALOGUE: A PRELIMINARY VIEW

1. SUMMARY: THE CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM DIALOGUE IN TRIPOLI, CON-
CLUDED FEB 6 ON AN UNFORTUNATE NOTE FOR THE VATICAN. THE
MALADROIT INCLUSION OF TWO "POLITICAL" DECLARATIONS ON ZIONISM
AND JERUSALEM IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE ARE IN RADICAL DEPARTURE
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FROM ESTABLISHED VATICAN POLICY. AN EMBARRASSED VATICAN IS

NOW TRYING TO DEVISE A METHOD FOR EXTRACTING ITSELF FROM WHAT OBSERVERS HAVE TERMED "QADHAFI'S TRAP". END SUMMARY.

2. THE CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM DIALOGUE IN TRIPOLI, FEB 1-6 ENDED ON AN UNFORTUNATE NOTE FOR VATICAN BECAUSE FINAL COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED TWO DECLARATIONS (ON ZIONISM AND JERUSALEM) WHICH ARE NOT IN ACCORD WITH ESTABLISHED VATICAN POLICIES.

3. THE FIRST CONTROVERSIAL DECLARATION STATES THAT TWO PARTIES "DISTINGUISH BETWEEN JUDAISM AND ZIONISM AND CONSIDER LATTER A RACIST MOVEMENT FOREIGN TO PALESTINE." THE SECOND DECLARATION STATES THAT PARTIES AGREE IN SUPPORTING "NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN LANDS AND AFFIRM THE ARABIC CHARACTER OF JERUSALEM AND REJECT PROJECTS FOR JUDAIZATION, INTERNATIONALIZATION, OR PARTITION OF CITY."

4. ON RETURNING TO ROME FROM TRIPOLI, CARDINAL PIGNEDOLI GAVE FOLLOWING DECLARATION TO VATICAN RADIO: "AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ISLAM-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE, THE TWO DELEGATIONS ARE PLEASED TO UNDERLINE THE POSITIVE CHARACTER OF THE RESULTS OF THIS HISTORIC DIALOGUE, EXPRESSED IN THE FINAL JOINT DECLARATION. IN PARTICULAR, WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPHS 20 AND 21 (THE PART POST STRICTLY POLITICAL) OF THE DOCUMENT, THE CONTENTS WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY THE CHRISTIAN DELEGATION TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE HOLY SEE, WHO ALONE ARE COMPETENT IN THE MATTER."

5. BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF TWO DECLARATIONS, APPARENTLY VATICAN DECIDED TO DELAY PUBLISHING FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND NOT TO INCLUDE ANY REFERENCES TO FINAL DAY OF DIALOGUE IN VATICAN ORGAN "L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO". "L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO," DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE PROVIDED DAILY COMMENTARY. (FINAL TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS WE OBTAIN AUTHENTIC COPY FROM VATICAN.)

6. THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS OF WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING THE COMPOSITION OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. THE FIRST MAINTAINS THAT CHRISTIAN PARTICIPANTS IN COMMITTEE WORKING ON FINAL COMMUNIQUE WERE NOT GIVEN COMPLETE ARABIC TEXT AND THAT TWO CONTROVERSIAL DECLARATIONS WERE INSERTED AFTER CHRISTIANS HAD AP-
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PROVED ARABIC TEXT. SECOND VERSION HOLDS THAT CHRISTIANS ON JOINT COMMITTEE WERE TOO TIRED AND INATTENTIVE AND THUS DID NOT FOCUS ON IMPLICATIONS OF TWO DECLARATIONS.

7. COMMENT: A. THE VATICAN ACCEPTED QADHAFI'S INVITATION TO HOLD CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM DIALOGUE IN TRIPOLI WITH SOME TREPIDATION WHICH WAS OVERCOME BY CONSIDERATION OF CARDINAL PIGNEDOLI'S ACKNOWLEDGED SKILLS IN DEALING WITH MOSLEMS IN PREV-

IOUS MINI-DIALOGUES IN EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. VATICAN THOUGHT THAT IT COULD CONTAIN DIALOGUE TO FOUR RELIGIOUS THEMES WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON, AND KEEP IT AWAY FROM SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON (I.E. DESIRE TO DISASSOCIATE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL ISSUES) THAT VATICAN DELEGATION TO TRIPOLI DID NOT INCLUDE ANYONE FROM VATICAN SECRETARIAT OF STATE.

B. VATICAN, HOWEVER, WAS QUICKLY MADE AWARE AT TRIPOLI THAT THEIR ASSUMPTION WAS FAULTY. INDEED, ACCORDING TO DAILY ARTICLES IN "L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO," VATICAN DELEGATES PROTESTED THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF SPEECHES BY MOSLEM PARTICIPANTS WHICH RAISED POLITICAL ISSUES.

C. GIVEN THESE DAILY SIGNALS, MANY VATICAN OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT VATICAN DELEGATION WAS NAIVE IN EXPECTING MOSLEM (GADHAFI) FAIRPLAY AND SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE EXERCISED GREATER ATTENTIVENESS IN FORMULATION OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE. ITALIAN JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED DIALOGUE BELIEVE THAT VATICAN FELL INADVERTENTLY INTO TRAP SET BY QADHAFI. WHILE SOME JOURNALISTS EXPRESS SOME SYMPATHY FOR EMBARRASSMENT THE INCIDENT CAUSED CARDINAL PIGNEDOLI (ONE OF LEADING PAPABILI, E.G. CANDIDATES FOR SUCCESSOR TO POPE PAUL), ITALIAN JOURNALISTS GENERALLY ARE ENJOYING SEEING VATICAN IN A TIGHT SPOT.

D. WHILE VATICAN IS NOW CONSIDERING BEST METHOD FOR CLARIFYING ITS POSITION ON ZIONISM AND JERUSALEM, ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS STRESS THAT QADHAFI IS PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF DIALOGUE AND AS HAVING APPROVED REPORTS WHICH AVER LIBYAN READINESS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH VATICAN, HIS HOPE TO VISIT POPE IN ROME, AND HIS AUTHORIZATION FOR OPENING OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT BENGHAZI. VATICAN SOURCES EXPECT A QUICK VATICAN CLARIFICATION SO THAT INCIDENT WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE

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CHRISTIAN/JEWISH DIALOGUE PLANNED FOR EARLY MARCH IN JERUSALEM. VOLPE

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